

## **Historic, Archive Document**

**Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.**



# BEARDED IRIS

From

## FAIRY GARDENS

Napoleon, Ohio

1929

LIBRA

RECEI

★ U. S. Department of

### VERY EARLY AND EARLY IRIS

Varieties listed are the very best intermediate and quite early varieties at low and moderate prices and the most of the new very earlies that have passed **THE FAIRY GARDENS** test. Varieties bloom about in rotation as listed.

	2 for		2 for
Nymph (Sass)	4.00	Zwanenberg	.25 .35
**Queen Flavia	.35	Soledad	.40 .60
*Miranda	.35	***Kochii	.35
Georgia	.40 .55	***Florentina Alba	.35
Yellow Hammer	.40 .55	*Firmament	.35
Ballerine	.75 .90	Zua	.35 .50
S. Mad. Gaudichau	.50 .70	Ariel	1.00
Pioneer	3.00	Gold Crest	.35 .50

Note 1. \* \* \* \* \* denotes the number of extra medium sized roots given.  
Note 2. Where two are priced means that an extra medium size root is given.

### MEDIUM EARLY AND MIDSEASON

	2 for		2 for
Cordan Blue	.35 .65	True Charm	.65
Karen	.25 .35	Yellow Moon	1.50
J. J. Dene	.35 .50	White Queen	.40
Crusader	.40	Lady Foster	.65 1.00
Rita	.35 .50	Santa Barbara, 2nd size	2.00
Anna Farr (true)	.40 .55	Viking	.35 .50
Wedgewood	2.50	Mary Gibson	1.50
Mary Barnett	4.00	Magnifica	.50 .65
Mrs. H. F. Bowls	1.00	Tenebrae	1.00 1.35
Wm. Mohr	9.00	Majestic	3.00
Cluny	.35	Mildred Presby	1.50
Chalice	.40 .55	Gavioata	.75
Lent A. Williamson	.35 .50		

### NEW AND SCARCE VARIETIES

With a very few exceptions all varieties in this section are approved Irises. This list is right up to date, including almost all the tried and tested new varieties at low and moderate prices and a good share of the novelties that are outstanding and worth the money. There are reasons good and plenty why some sorts are not in this list. Every season this list is refined and when a variety is superceded, it is listed with the bargain sorts.

	2 for		2 for
Asia	1.50	Susan Bliss, 2nd size	.50
Arlette	1.50	Kashmere White	.60 .85
Amneris	3.50	Leverrier	.75 1.00
Ann Page	1.50	Lona	2.00
Argynnus	.50	Los Angeles	
Alliquippa, 2nd size	2.00	Marsh Marigold	.40
Ambasadeur	.50	Marjorie Tinley	.65 1.00
B. Y. Morrison	.40 .55	Memory	1.00
Brandywine	.50 .65	Morning Splendor	1.50
Beau Ideal	.85	Mystic	1.50
Bruno	5.00	Nancy Orne	.35
Cclias	.50	Princess Beatrice	.40 .55
Caroline Stringer	2.00	Pink Mad Cherau	.50 .65
Chasseur	.75	Prospero	.40
Coronation	2.50	Purissama	
Dream	.50 .65	Princess Osra	1.50
Damozel	.35 .50	Regan	.60
Duke of Bedford	5.00	Rhine Traube	.65
Duke of York	.65	Realm	8.00
Delicatissama	.35 .50	San Francisco	
Elsa	5.00	Sunset	.40
E. H. Jenkins	.50 .65	Sweet Lavender	.50
El Capitan	3.00	Sou D. L. Michaud	4.00
Flammenswert	.50	King Karl	2.00
Frieda Mohr	8.00	Tom Tit	.35
Gabriel	7.00	Valery Mayett	.35
Gold Imperial	1.50	Rialger	.75
Horizon	4.00	Yoeman	1.50
Jean Cheverau	.75	Zulu	5.00
Jaqueline Guillot	.75 1.00		

### TRUE UP YOUR IRIS

Some customers have been so well pleased in securing all varieties true that the next season I was entrusted with their orders for Peonies. Others were so delighted in obtaining what they ordered that they sent me an order for varieties that they thought they had, but not being sure of some sorts, gave me an order for these in order to true up their collection.

### THE BEST VARIETY

Princess Beatrice is recognized by the most experienced Iris growers as the very best of the varieties of Pallida Dalmatica. Some years before over half of the present day growers know what an Iris was, my original stock was purchased from the Martin Kohankie Nurseries.

### THE TRUE QUILL

The true Princess Beatrice can be recognized by the extra wide flaring falls the ends of which pucker up slightly and a slight pinkish scientelating reflection in center of fall. The Princess always comes a fine color and for this reason alone could stand a higher rating.

**NOTE**—Except noted. All quotations in first price column are for largest super size Mother Rhizomes.

## Good Fine and Extra Fine

### STANDARD IRIS

Varieties under these headings are the very cream of the old timers, older sorts and newer choice varieties low in price. These Irises are the backbone of every fine Iris collection and beginners and others should buy them first of all. Rely on *Fairy Gardens* selections.

**Afterglow	*Mother of Pearl	*Corrida
*Col. Candlot	**Ann Leslie	***Lohengrin
*Aurora	Dalilia	Ute Chief
***Archeveque	*Her Majesty	**Massasoit
Dusky Maid	***Isoline	***Quaker Lady
**W. J. Fryer	***P. Laugier	***Rhine Nixie
**P. Vic. Louise	*Ma Mie	*Shekina
	*Marsh Marigold	**Blue Jay

Yvonne Pelletier Queen Caterina

Above sorts 35c with extras

### Siberian Iris

Are extra fine for cutting and massing and a few varieties should be in every garden. Perry's Blue is early. Other varieties bloom with the late Bearded Iris. The varieties in this list are the cream of all the Siberians.

	1st	2nd
Perrys Blue, wonderful shade of sky blue	.50	.35
Snow Queen, pure white	.40	.25
Emperor, dark purple blue	.50	.35
Blue King, fine intense brilliant blue	.40	.25
Kingfisher Blue, (true) larger flowers than Perrys Blue	3.00	2.00

Note: Some of the stock sent out under Kingfisher Blue is spurious.

First size are medium size clumps having five to six strong stems. Second size 3 to 4 strong stems. Should have one or more blooms first season but not as certain nor as many flowers the 1st season as 1st size.

Note—Strong stems are blooming stems. Small stems are not counted and there are some to every size. As good value is given as any and better than some.

### SUPER MOTHER ROOTS

Are offered to quality buyers who are willing to pay a little bit more for the utmost in blooming size roots that money will buy. Extra money cannot buy happiness, but it will come close to it if a little bit more is used to buy Super size Mother Iris roots from *Fairy Gardens*.

### DEFINITION OF SIZES

First size Super-Mother rhizom, a broad, thick, heavy single root, generally with 3, 4 or more babies attached. 95% should bloom the first season. The very best buy if only one of a variety is purchased. Most certain to bloom and having more babies gives the utmost increase.

Note 1—Only a limited number of super roots available every season. After these are sold I give 2 second size, except higher and high priced sorts, when one 2nd size is given and difference in price is refunded.

Note 2—Roots shipped during the summer will not show any babies until some growth has been made in the fall.

### NOT DIVISIONS

My super size Iris roots are not divisions, except sometimes when an extra large root that is up to grade is found on the outside of a clump. Most of my largest size Mother roots were transplanted a year ago and were second size when planted. **It must be admitted** that such roots are almost certain to bloom the first season.

### A GOOD TEST

Rather late one fall I planted 35 Princess Beatrice and 25 Isoline in blooming size roots. 30 of the Princess bloomed and 20 Isoline. Certainly a very good showing for supposed shy bloomers. **It is significant that these roots bloomed after fall planting.** Moral. Plant blooming size Iris roots from *Fairy Gardens*.

### A Convincing Illustration

This Spring some Super-size Mother Rhizomes of Ballerine and Gaudichau were left over from Spring sales. After replanting every root bloomed. These two are slow growers and some sent out need another years growth. *Fairy Gardens* Super-size Mother Rhizomes bloom because they are matured and have the age.

### SLOW GROWING IRIS

Are more often sent out later in the season in undersized roots because the largest are all gone. Right here is where the *Fairy Gardens* system of grading Iris roots insures Iris buyers receiving full value. Most of the Dominions and following Iris are slow growers: Zua, Gold Crest, Ballerine, S. Mad. Gaudichau, Wm. Mohr, Lady Foster, Crusader, Majestic, B. Y. Morrison, Brandywine, Kashmere, White, Princess Beatrice, Leverrier, Delicatissima, Jaqueline Guillot, and Ann Page. Many roots of these varieties sent out need another year's growth to reach blooming size. Why not pay just a little bit more for these slow growers and secure blooming size roots.

### LATE PLANTED IRIS

Are no more liable to be heaved out than early planted roots. This was proved by the open Winter of 27-28. Early planted Iris need a mulch for Winter protection almost as much as late planted Iris and if in addition are given good drainage and real blooming size roots from *Fairy Gardens* are planted you can bank on a reasonable amount of bloom.

### WHO CAN ANSWER?

It seems that slow growing Iris are more certain to bloom if not planted early but planted later on. Note under "A convincing illustration" how well some Spring planted roots bloomed. The previous summer some roots from this same row were shipped to a Detroit estate early in the season, all roots especially selected and not one bloomed. It seems that slow growing Iris should have time to form bloom buds before transplanting. Let someone give a better answer.

# Early Iris Supremacy

## FIRMAMENT

Above All

### HISTORY OF FIRMAMENT

Twenty-five years ago when I commenced to study and collect Irises this finest of all very early blue varieties was discovered at the Old Homestead (now a memory) in a clump of Florentina Alba. Even at that time when I did not have the power of discrimination that has been acquired since, it impressed me as being extra fine. So it was removed and planted away by itself as a treasure to be guarded against any possible loss; and everyone who buys Firmament will guard it when it is considered that it is invested with some romance.

Every year as it bloomed again I was impressed by the beautiful light blue standard and dark violet blue of the falls set off by the good sized bright orange beard. Visitors would remark what a beautiful thing it was. Eventually the plants increased so much that they were removed to an open field, planted along side and between the rows of other blue and purple varieties. This one was singled out for special praise by visitors; often it was noticed from the roadway and people came in to see such a beautiful Iris.

Having sold a quantity of Firmament in Detroit, I bargained for some plants there to replenish my stock and made a special trip to mark the plants while they were still in bloom so that there would not be any possibility of getting somewhere else. Upon my arrival I had the Iris surprise of my life. Firmament was of such size, coloration and beauty that I had not seen excelled by any other light blue variety in my travels, nor in any of my own early lighter blue sorts.

The Detroit Firmament had finer blooms than my own plants bore for the reason that they were planted in richer soil. Never in my life did I see such Iris blooms as I saw at the Detroit estate. Firmament was given my new Iris as a name that would fittingly describe its beauty. There are other Irises more beautiful among the later sorts, but among the very early blue varieties Firmament is supreme.

### ALL OVER THE LAND

East & West

North & South

Firmament Has Made Good

### THE VERDICT

Ky. The Iris Firmament should have been named "The Orchid." Canada Firmament is very fine; very good bloomer.

N. Y. Firmament is great. For an early Iris it is a wonder.

Mich. Seen in a clump in the sun, its name is more than justified.

Calif. An early season Iris of vigorous constitution; a particularly vivid and pleasing chicory blue with golden beard. Easily displaces most early blues.

"Probably the best of all Germanicas is the rich bicolor Firmament, very close to Fotnariebie in type, the standard of delicate light blue and the falls of dark purple. This flower has fine form and unusual substance for an early Iris."

Texas—Firmament does exceptionally well in this climate.

Ohio—Firmament is all right, only it comes so early when there are no shows.

Ind—Every spring I think of you and the fine Iris "Firmament", that I purchased of you four years ago. It is as fine an Iris as I have in my collection of 200 varieties. One of the very earliest and attracts a great deal of attention. Send me your catalog.

### BELIEVE ME OR NOT

That one of the first friends I met at the Ft. Wayne Peony Show was my good friend from Columbia City who said that my opinions of Irises had been of invaluable assistance in making selections. My friend also asked me if I had any more of the pink, Gladys Cranfield. His gardener had accidentally dug up his only plant and he wanted another one. **How much more evidence is needed to prove the beauty of this charming pink?**

After reading the above in my preliminary Iris price list my friend writes me. "It was a pleasure to meet and get acquainted with you just by accident as we did at Ft. Wayne. I will have more confidence in you in the future, because I know you are sincere in your statements." Along with expression of good will was an order for 6 pinks, Gladys Cranfields and Irises, and a week later another order for Irises and stated that probably another order would be sent in when my entire list was received.

### HIGHEST PRAISE

"Firmament is a good companion to Florentina and Kochii in an early flowering planting."

Florentina and Kochii are of such high quality for their very early season that both are in a class by themselves and Firmament is like-wise in a class by itself for an extremely early light blue Iris.

### STILL THEY COME

July 1929

The Firmament which I got from you was very fine. I am glad I have it. I had blue sports of Florentina alba of my own which I thought pretty good but they were not nearly as fine as Firmament.

### BLOWING MY HORN

Firmament eclipses all other early blue Irises of its season. Firmament is finer than Miranda, Gold Crest, Mad. Gaudichau, and compares favorably with Ballerine. The evidence proves Firmament to be the finest American early blue Iris, one of the Finest American Irises and among the finest Irises in existence.

### THICK HEADS

The attempt of the higher-up thick heads of the Iris Society in attempting to prevent Firmament from becoming known will avail them nothing. They might just as well bump their thick craniums against a stone wall as to try and keep Firmament down. A good thing cannot be kept down, neither can a good Iris be kept down.

## Why My Selections Are The Best

Greatest possible color range through all seasons aimed to include enough lavender, blue and purple in every dozen so that "real Iris colors" will continue to dominate the collection as every dozen is added. This refining has been carried to such a fine point that not many will soon be obsolete. Not many changes could be made at present for new introductions except at enormous cost. It would be wisdom for anyone having a few Irises to buy in quantity again and again the low and moderate priced sorts **emphasized**, instead of buying higher priced varieties. If many are already in collections, go full steam ahead and buy to the limit. **You can trust Fairy Gardens.**

### Remember

My years of **experience** in continually refining down to the very best only. Do you believe I would have as many undesirable sorts as some growers who have been growing Irises for ten, fifteen or twenty years only?

### Another Reason

My plantings during all these years have been moved from one location to another three times. There is no more compelling way to make a grower eliminate.

### My Answer

My concentration is the answer to new growers who boast of 300 or 500 varieties which shows inability to intelligently eliminate. At the most, 200 varieties would cover the field for some years to come.

### IRISES FOR BEGINNERS

Every best dozen must be altered every year or some varieties will be as obsolete as a last years bird's nest. **Fairy Gardens** best dozen lists for beginners and others are the utmost, the last word in Iris selections.

1st best six early: Florentina alba, Kochii, Queen Flavia, Ballerine, Mad Gaudichau, Georgia.

Next six. Firmament, Gold Crest, Crusader, Soledad, Zua, Cordan Blue, Lohengrin, Magnifica.

Next six. Yellow Hammer, Miranda, Viking, Lady Foster, Anna Farr, Regan, and then keep right on and add Ariel, Mrs. H. F. Bowls, Pioneer and balance of list.

### MIDSEASON, LATE AND VERY LATE

1st dozen. P. Beatrice, Dream, Isoline, P. Laugier, Quaker Lady, Seminole, Kashmere White, Rhine Nixie, Mother of Pearl, W. J. Fryer, Shekina, B. Y. Morrison.

2nd doz. Afterglow, Aurora, Dusky Maid or Marsh Marigold, Her Majesty, P. Vic. Louise, Vio. Grandiflora, Massasoit, Chalice, Leverrier, E. H. Jenkins, Iris King, Pink Mad Cherau, Ann Leslie or Dalilia, Archeveque, Yvonne Pelletier, Brandywine, Col. Candelot, Ma Mie, Jean Cheverau, Susan Bliss, and then keep on and add Mystic, Mary Gibson, Gold Imperial, Memory, Asia, Morning Splendor, Mildred Presby, Majestic, Ann Page, C. E. Stringer, Duke of York or Marjorie Tinley, Majestic, El Capitan, Mary Barnett, and Frieda Mohr, Los Angeles and San Francisco and Ambassadeur for a try.

### NOTE

There is not one "never was, has been, get rid of, unload, or close out Iris" in above lists. A few more would have been included but these are sold out this season.

**LADY FOSTER**—Altho surpassed by Ann Page is still very desirable because it blooms quite early. Good stock of blooming size of this slow grower.

**SUNLIGHT**—Said to lack texture. It is indefensible, at this late day, to offer a seedling at \$25.00 that lacks substance.

### AN EVIL THING

The jurors of the Iris Symposium have dilly-dallied, shilly-shallied and fiddled through three Symposiums and the last one is as bad as the first. Such poor judgment and wretched, excrable taste was shown by some of the jurors that the entire jury should be discharged and a new one selected who are competent enough to rate Iris with more reason and common sense. In every Symposium some of the novelties were far over-rated and some of the older varieties that have stood the test of time were under-rated. Neither the innocent buying public or growers are protected. **Don't trust the Iris Symposium, it is an evil thing.**

### THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The money spent on yearly memberships is a good investment. The Bulletins contain valuable information, but one must use a sixth sense at times to determine what to forget. Great credit is due the Iris officials for their unselfish devotion to the cause in giving valuable time without pay. The Society is managed economically which is in startling contrast to The Peony Society which is run on a gold digger basis.

### A SECOND TIME

Some growers after loading up beginners with lot of old stuff are now going after beginners goats a second time. Assortments of new varieties are made up including a few of known quality and then an abnormal each price quoted and then the entire outfit offered as a collection at a great reduction. Why be a goat a second time?

### IN THE MAKING

For at least a year more Fairy Gardens will not be attractive except when flowers are in bloom. The grounds are churned up like a battlefield. In two or three years Fairy Gardens will be one of the best places to study Iris. No commonplace varieties will be found.

### POSTPAID

All orders postpaid except accomodation orders.

### ACCOMODATION ORDERS

Orders for lowest cost varieties less than 75c, 25c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than one dollar, 20c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than \$1.25, 15c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than \$1.50, 10c extra for postage. Orders for higher priced Iris less than \$1.25, 15c extra for postage and packing.

**NOTE**.—Forget postage and receive smaller roots. Play safe. Don't be a *forgetter*.

### BUSINESS TERMS

Cash with order, except persons known to me. No credit orders under \$15.00.

### GUARANTEE

All varieties absolutely guaranteed true to name. If a mistake is made, replacement will be made with a *large root*, not a small thing.

### Payments

Should be made out to **H. W. Groschner**, or **Fairy Gardens**, Napoleon, Ohio.